copy to A.C.S.G.
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TOP SECRET

TICOM/I-102

ATTACHED INTERROGATION REPORT
ON DR. SEBASTIAN OF THE GERMAN MET. SERVICE ON ALLIED MET.SYSTEMS

This short report produced by G.S.I(S), 21 A.G. B.O.A.R. on or about the 3rd Sept. 1945 sets out P.O.W'S statements on German success with Allied Met. cyphers.

Also attached is an extract from Met. Diary, Disarmament Control (11-13 May, 1945) which concerns SEBASTIAN.

TICOM

No. of pages: 4

17 Sept. 1945

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ADDITIONAL

S.A.C. for Signals 5, Air Ministry.

I visited SEBASTIAN at HADDEBY Met Station and the following is the sum total of the information he was able to give.

In answer to the question, "What success did you have with allied MET ciphers" :-

British:- We worked on them for the whole of the war without any success at all.

American:- (He evidently included the American Air Force MET in Britain with the above answer). Not really interested in it. As far as he knows the reports were given in clear. The MET stations were somewhere in the Northern USA or in CANADA.

Russian:- A great amount of success was achieved here. At the outbreak of war with RUSSIA an aerodrome was overrun and the complete daily sheets were captured. Although the Russians immediately changed their cipher system it was only a week or so before they returned to the daily tables. All that was needed, therefore was to find the daily table and the rest was easy.

Later the Russians changed to a system, which the Germans called "Schluesselwurm". SEBASTIAN had no great knowledge of this, but it sounds like a slide. That, too, they found very simple once the setting for the day had been found.

The Germans have no documents available about the various Russian coding systems.

SEBASTIAN stressed, however, that their main task had been to break the British MET ciphers, but all in vain.

The MET intercept was done purely by the MET service and the people covering all the foreigh MET transmissions were housed in BERLIN at first, and known as the ZENTRALWETTERDIENSTGRUPPE. Later, when the Germans took over more territory, other stations were set up nearer the countries they were interested in. One, at ATHENS, had an easy job with the MET traffic, sent over the air in clear, in EGYPT and the SUDAN.

These MET intercept stations transmitted in code to BERLIN all the messages taken, and they were worked on at the HQ.

According to SEBASTIAN the man to get hold of - he is reputed to know everything there is to be known about MET ciphers - is a Dr. WUESTHOF, who worked at the BERLIN station until the arrival of the Russians caused the set-up to move to MUNICH. Dr. WUESTHOF is therefore probably in American hands.

/The man

The man who dealt with the actual wireless intercept is an Inspektor STARKE, who was - and may still be - at QUICKBORN (N. of HAMBURG), which is controlled by 83 Gp. MET.

I saw Wing Cmdr. BELL at 83 Group HQ yesterday, 30 Aug., and he readily gave me permission to see SEBASTIAN, who, unfortunately, was out when I went there.

The Wing Cdmr. prepared me for the answer to the question I was putting to SEBASTIAN by giving me the same answers as I had from SEBASTIAN this morning. Apparently the question of the success they had had, has already been gone into by the R.A.F.

(Received under cover note signed: JERRAM).

METEOROLOGICAL DIARY

DISARMAMENT CONTROL

(S/L. L.H.Shave)

11th May:

Arrived SCHLESWIG-LAND by air. Informed no Met. of importance on airfield. Proceeded to H.Q. Control Commission at Hotel Hamburg in SCHLESWIG (4 miles from airfield). Unable to contact any senior officer. Therefore obtained car and interpreter and proceeded to LUFTFLOTTE REICH located in pine forest, under canvas, 10 miles from SCHLESWIG.

Interviewed Dr. Hölcke. He possessed only receiving facilities for providing meteorological advice to Baron von Stumpff. Was referred for full information to Dr. Sebastian at the seaplane base (SCHLESWIG-SEE).

Interviewed Dr. Sebastian in the afternoon at SCHLESWIG-SEE (two miles from town). He stated that copies of file containing full particulars of Met. under his control had been handed to Disarmament Commission. (W/C Passey subsequently stated these had been forwarded to T.A.F. or Group).

Dr. Sebastian had administrative offices at SCHLESWIG-SEE; forecast station with W/T receivers and transmitters situated at HADDEBY on opposite side of lake. This was visited with Dr. Sebastian and appeared to be in good order.

12th May:

Dr. Sebastian was again visited and requested to prepare a list of all Meteorological personnel in stations occupied by the Luftwaffe in SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN and DENMARK with their categories and locations. He was reminded that a standstill order had be imposed on all such personnel and it was emphasised that this instruction was to be rigidly observed. He pointed out that some Meteorological personnel were attached to flying units now in precess of disbandment. It was arranged that these should proceed to the nearest Meteorological station to await instructions. Dr. Sebastian will include in his list all the latter as well as personnel not previously belonging to SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN stations but have entered the area during the retreat. The list of personnel to be available on Monday 14th May (owing to communication difficulties, a day's grace was subsequently allowed).

/A statement

A statement was requested concerning external broadcasts formerly received at SCHLESWIG. Information will also be provided on radio and radar installations.

Two Radio Sonde stations under German control in DENMARK (Copenhagen, Blavandshuk) were both destroyed. The Radio Sonde ascents can be recommended immediately at SCHLESWIG, having been discontinued in accordance with article 12(b) of the Disarmament Instruction.

Dr. Sebastian further undertook yo provide particulars of all equipment held. It was understood that a few days would be required to collect this information.

A written authority was requested by Dr. Sebastian to permit him to visit stations in his area, and he also asked for certificates for Direktor Dr. Haude (Luftgau XI) and Dr. Disselkamp (Denmark).

13th May:-

Arrangements to visit EGGEBECK were cancelled on receipt of instructions to return to Group for consultations.

Dr. Sebastian telephoned requesting additional time to obtain required information. Enquiries were made concerning HUSUM (no Met. - radio installations not known) and communications with KIEL, HAMBURG-FUHLSBUTTEL (none).